Listing of Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of citalopram, comprising:

(a) treating 5-cyanophthalide with a mixture of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide and 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide and, without isolating an intermediate,

(b) adding an organic acid, an inorganic acid, or triphenylphosphine and ethyl azadicarboxylate,

thereby producing citalopram without isolating an intermediate.

2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, using from 1.8 to 2.0 moles of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide for each mole of 5-cyanophthalide.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, using from 1.09 to 1.2 moles of 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide, for each mole of 5-cyanophthalide.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, using from 1.7 to 1.6 moles of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide, for each mole of 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide is a bromide.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide is a chloride.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the acid has a pK comprised from 0 to 3.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the acid has a pK comprised from 2 to 3.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the acid is ortho-phosphoric acid.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the acid is used in a concentration comprised from 55 to 95% by weight, preferably in concentration of about 85% by weight.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, carried out in an organic polar aprotic solvent.

17. (Previously presented) The process of claim 16, carried out in from 1.0 to 1.6 litres of solvent, for each mole of 5-cyanophthalide.

18. (Previously presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the solvent is selected from tetrahydrofuran and toluene.

19. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, characterized by the fact that the step (a) is carried out at -20 to +20° C.

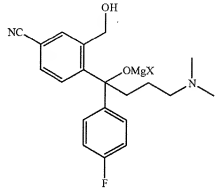
20. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein step (a) is carried out at -10 to 0° C.

21. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein step (b) is carried out at -10 to +20° C.

22. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein step (b) is carried out at 0 to +10° C.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A compound of formula:



where X is a halogen, produced as an intermediate compound by treating 5-cyanophthalide with a mixture of 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide and 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 24, wherein X is chlorine or bromine.

27. (Previously presented) A one pot process for the preparation of citalopram, comprising:

combining 5-cyanophthalide 4-fluorophenyl magnesium halide and 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium halide in a pot, and, without isolating an intermediate, performing acid catalysed cyclization, thereby producing citalopram in one pot without isolating an intermediate.